

Socialist **ACTION**

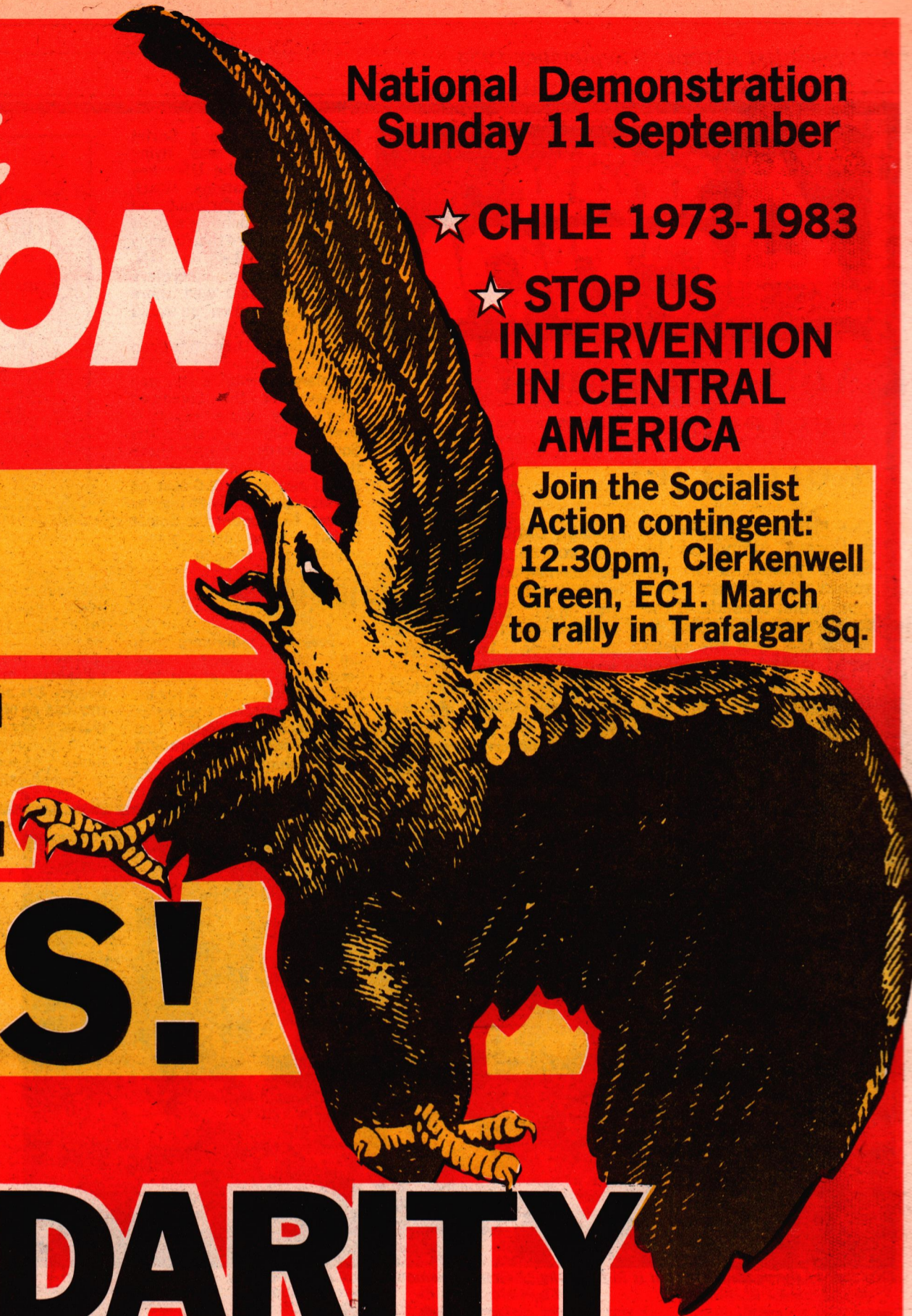
National Demonstration
Sunday 11 September

★ CHILE 1973-1983

★ STOP US
INTERVENTION
IN CENTRAL
AMERICA

Join the Socialist
Action contingent:
12.30pm, Clerkenwell
Green, EC1. March
to rally in Trafalgar Sq.

**NO
MORE
CHILES!**



**SOLIDARITY
WITH THE
CENTRAL
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION!**

Socialist Action

Anti-communist hysteria over Korean jet

THE SHOOTING DOWN of a Korean jumbo jet by Soviet planes is an absolute gift to Reagan's anti-communist crusade. If the Soviet leadership knew, or suspected, that the plane was indeed a civilian airliner then its destruction was a foolish and brutal action. But there are good reasons to think that this was not the case. The jumbo jet was inex-

plicably hundreds of miles off course. The United States now admits that one of their spy planes was in the area, and probably crossed the flight path of the jumbo. The Korean airliner was flying over one of the Soviet Union's most important military installations.

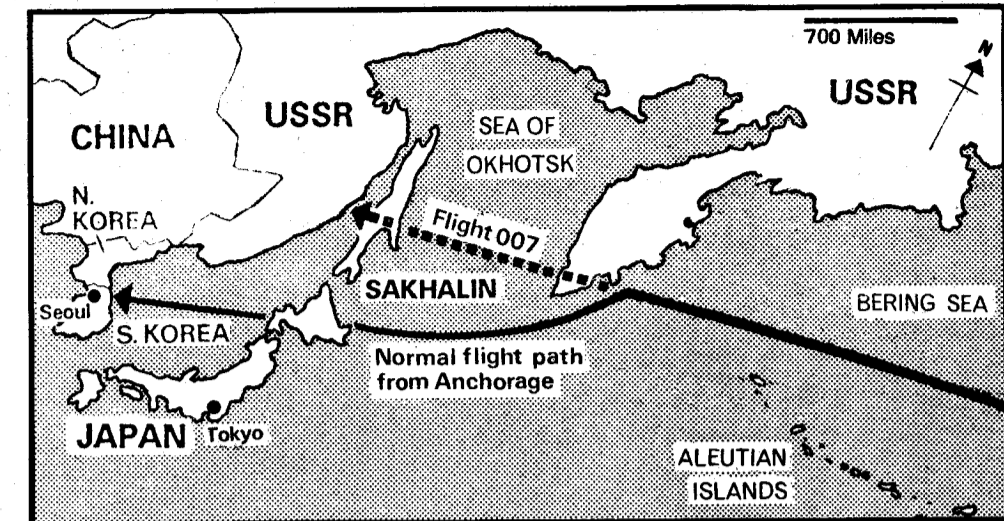
Every nation defends its own air space, not least the United States. What would

have happened to a Soviet airliner which was flying above one of the US's key military installations, which turned all its lights out and refused to respond to signals to land? In a more than usually candid interview on ITN, former foreign secretary David Owen said 'well, there comes a point when you would have to shoot it down'.

The Soviet Union has been constantly subjected to US spy plane overflights. It is well known that the Lockheed SR-71 spy plane regularly overflies China and skirts the Soviet border. Flying three times faster than the speed of sound and at 90,000 feet no Soviet plane can fly as high or as fast. No wonder the Soviet Union is jumpy about planes violating its air space.

Rights

Reagan's statements on the issue have been nauseating. 'How can we deal with nations', said Reagan, 'that don't observe the basics of civilised behaviour?' This from the people who brought you Hiroshima, My Lai and El Salvador.



Shot down airliner was heading straight over the Soviet Union and China

Reagan manages to do business day-in, day-out with every bloody right-wing dictatorship in the world.

Each time a village is massacred in El Salvador the death toll is about the same as the loss of life on the Korean plane. Every couple of months in that country the same number of people 'disappear', to be brutally tortured and

murdered by the death squads. All Ronald Reagan says about it is that the Salvadorean government is improving its human rights record!

The Soviet Union, of course, has a duty to explain fully the circumstances leading to the shooting down of the plane. If it keeps silent, or makes patently untrue

statements, world public opinion thinks the worst.

But it seems certain that the passengers aboard the plane were the victims of the Soviet Union's determination to guard itself from the military encirclement and harassment of its borders which is the stock in trade of the US military and intelligence establishments.



Photo: PETE GRANT

First task of the peace movement is to build the 22 October demonstration against Cruise

Scottish CND debates freeze

THE ANNUAL Conference of Scottish CND will take place in Dundee next weekend. It will be the first occasion that a significant section of the peace movement has had the opportunity to evaluate the situation of the peace movement following the election. Its debates will be an indicator of the themes which will dominate the British CND conference in December.

The main debate on post-election strategy will take place on an emergency resolution from the Scottish CND Committee. While it contains many useful suggestions, its basic thrust is given by the opening paragraph calling for a nuclear 'freeze'. This states: 'We must seek to isolate the government by building a new broad alliance of political forces around the demands of a) a British unilateral freeze on all new weapons development and deployment b) a comprehensive ban treaty c) a new first use agreement'.

By Tony Southall (Secretary Scottish Labour CND, delegate Partick and Anderston CLP)

An amendment from Scottish Labour CND seeks to eliminate these words and replace them with a renewed commitment to building single issue action campaigns like the highly successful Anti-Trident Campaign, and directed at the new developments in the arms race.

Allies

The majority of the Scottish CND committee have become forthright in advocating the freeze. They've continually explained that the demand is for a unilateral freeze. But the new allies which they've found to sponsor the campaign don't accept that.

allies by calling on them to build the CND national demonstration on 22 October. Finally, let's not forget that after December, if it is not stopped before, a freeze would confirm Cruise in place!

Shock

Socialist Action supporters at Dundee will be particularly concerned to rebuff the wave of innuendo about our supposed malpractice in YCND and LCND. We are shocked by the allegations of our manipulation, allegations which have been repudiated by the executives of both Labour and Trade Union CNDs.

We'll continue to fight for our right to express our own views — and defend the right of everyone else to do the same! Aberdeen CND will be submitting a resolution on the apparent witch hunt in YCND, and defending that organisation's democracy.

We are hopeful that Scottish CND, which has always enjoyed collaborative relations with its own CND, will support this.

Test

Thus the price of the 'new broad alliance' is drop our unilateralism. Its second price is to direct our main attention away from the mass campaign which should be consuming the energies — stopping Cruise which is due in December.

Let's test out these new

Thought for the week

'CND was always sensible about the youth movement. They recognised that the thousands of young people who worked in CND and marched annually from Aldermaston were an asset no other political movement possessed. So we provided office staff and paid for their organiser but also gave them complete autonomy to run their own affairs'.

The late Peggy Duffy, longtime organiser of CND, in her memoirs 'Left, Left, Left' 1977.

Labour CND calls conference demo

LABOUR CND has called a demonstration for the eve of the Labour Party conference to argue that we must stand by our commitment to abandon nuclear weapons. We must not allow any compromise at conference which fudges our support for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The march and rally we are organising will highlight the importance of supporting resolutions on unilateral nuclear disarmament. We need a strong demonstration to show the support for these positions throughout the labour movement.

At the election, the Labour Party leadership did not campaign for party policy on these issues. They will be looking for an opportunity to use our electoral failure as an excuse to draw back from the party policies which have won at the last three conferences.

By Joy Hurcombe (Secretary Labour CND)

Labour CND has been consistent in its struggle

ferred attacks from inside and outside CND. We believe, at a time when cruise missiles are due in this country and when international tensions have been heightened by the superpowers, that we must have a clear alternative to Thatcher's government.

If the right wing can organise, then so can we. Labour CND appeals to all Labour Party members to come to this demonstration.

Banners

Please bring your banners, and organise coaches from your constituencies and LPYS branches. Get your trades council and union branches to come along too.

Nuclear weapons are no defence!

Peace march at Labour Party conference

Assemble 1.30pm, The Level, Brighton (near Brighton railway station). Rally 2.30pm, Sea Front, near Metropole Hotel. Speakers invited include Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone, Helen John, Richard Balfe, Ken Cameron (FBU) and others.

Necessary clarification

The Times of 2 September carried a hidden-away 'correction' withdrawing its allegations that events in Labour CND had come to a head over attempts to get Labour CND to give money to Socialist Action. Apparently, the article should have said that the dispute was over whether Labour CND should affiliate to Socialists for a Labour Victory. We wonder where the Times got its original mis-information.

Coincidentally, John Rentoul, who wrote an article about the Socialist League and CND in the New Statesman has written to the League explaining that the allegations of SL malpractice were not his, but those made to him by National CND officials.

Campaign launched for political rights at work

LAST week Leyland management stepped up their witch hunt by sacking two more workers on charges of having falsified their job application forms. The continued witch hunt by Leyland has spotlighted once again the question of political victimisation at work.

This kind of political victimisation is nothing new. The employers' spy organisation, the Economic League, was founded as long ago as 1919. They keep extensive files on militants and 'troublemakers', which are freely available to the employers.



Photo: GM COOKSON

Steph Grant — one of the Cowley 13 fired for their political views

Labour CND attacks witch hunt

THE EXECUTIVE of Labour CND at its last meeting discussed the press attacks on Socialist Action supporters on the committee and allegations of deep splits in the LCND leadership. The following extract is from the LCND resolution on this question:

'Labour CND executive considers that recent articles in the press regarding Labour CND have presented a wholly unbalanced view of the dedicated and serious work of this committee.

We recognise that this committee represents a broad spectrum of political views from within the Labour Party, as in all such pressure groups.

This reflects the fact that all sections of the party support the policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament. This was clearly shown at the last Labour Party conference when the resolution on disarmament, Composite 51, won an overwhelming vote of 4,950,000, which was 71

per cent of the votes cast. We consider that political differences on this committee have been exaggerated out of all proportion by the press and we defend the right of members to express themselves in an open and democratic way. We believe the media attack is an attack on the cause of disarmament and should be recognised as such.

We call on the CND national executive to declare in a press release their recognition of the important work of Labour CND in promoting CND's aims in the Labour Party'.
● The CND executive has declined to issue a statement to the press defending Labour CND.

The existence of black lists is notorious in the building trade and other industries. A period of economic recession creates especially good conditions for employers to try to weed out those people they consider politically undesirable.

It is high time a campaign was formed to defend all those victimised at work, and to uncover the workings of the police Special Branch and organisations like the Economic League.

Rights

To that end a campaign is being set up to fight for political rights at work. The founding appeal is as follows:

'We are deeply concerned that the recent dismissals by British Leyland at Cowley of workers for their political views is merely one example of increasing victimisation of workers who are considered radical or socialist. In our view an employer is not entitled to censor ideas or penalise normal trade union activity.

'The press treatment of the Cowley story was gravely disturbing in assuming guilt where none was proven. Yet few voices were heard in criticism. This is a new McCarthyite tendency to condemn people by association and, taken with activity of organisations like the Economic League, it is a tendency which ought to be reversed.

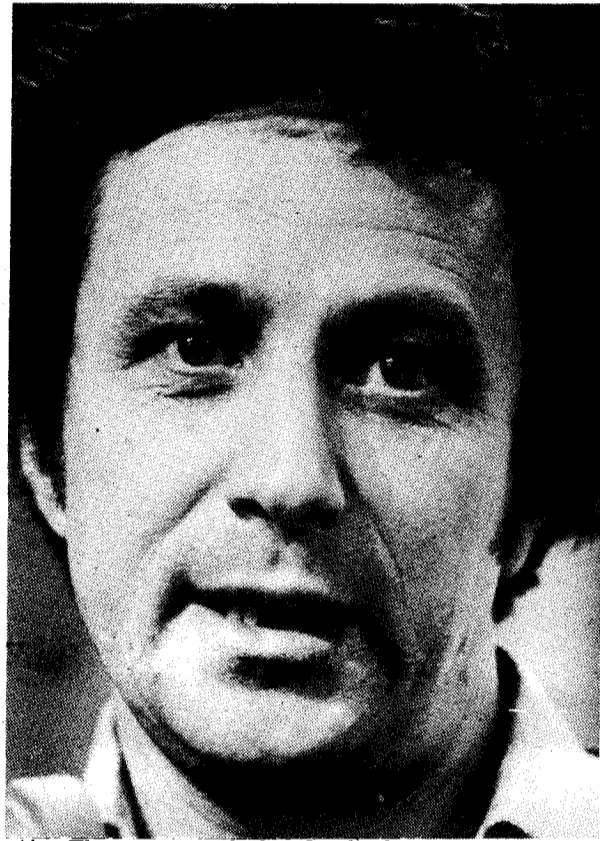


Photo: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

Alan Thornett — sacked at Cowley last year

'We would welcome your support in forming a committee to counter this tendency and to give support to those who are victimised at work for their political convictions'.

Already a number of MPs, civil liberties activists and labour movement leaders have signed this statement. Next week Socialist Action will publish a full list of signatories and further

details of the campaign.

In the meantime Socialist Action supporters should collect as many signatories from the labour movement and beyond. Many people have already signed various petitions supporting the 15 victimised Cowley workers. They should all be re-approached to sign the statement supporting the aims of the new campaign.



Photo: VRON WARE

Derek Robinson — another victim of BL's anti-trade union crusade

Labour movement against the witch hunt

Metal Box Combine Committee

'This committee a) condemns the sacking of the victimised Cowley workers as an attack on the whole trade union movement and calls for their reinstatement b) will defend any Metal Box worker if they receive similar treatment c) believes in the right of

every union member to be able to argue for their viewpoint with no fear of victimisation from his/her boss or witch hunt from the press d) will give whatever support it can to any campaign fighting on behalf of the Cowley workers.'

Hemel Hempstead and District trades council

'At a special Executive Committee meeting ... delegates were unanimous in their view that the sackings were carried out solely with the purpose of removing active trade unionists from a workforce uncowed by management's bullying tactics. The reason

given by the Company that false statements were made by the thirteen on their applications was felt to be a convenient smokescreen for a management bent on crushing union effectiveness at Cowley'.

Lancashire Association of Trades Councils

'The President of the LCATC, Fred Porter ... slammed the "political decision taken at British Leyland" in their sacking of thirteen workers. He contrasted Government and establishment support of Solidarnosc and victimised Polish workers with the reverse stance taken at

Cowley... Calling for opposition "through every avenue possible" to the linking of recruitment policies by employers to the education level and political opinions of workers he asked "Why should a degree in political science not be a qualification to work on an assembly line?"'

Meetings against the witch hunt

Birmingham

Seeing Red — the Press and the Left
Speakers: Steph Grant, Clare Short MP, Feter Tatchell
Tuesday 27 September, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall
Called by West Midlands Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom

Lambeth

Speakers include: Steph Grant, Stuart Holland MP
Wednesday 14 September, 7.30pm, Abeng Centre, 7 Gresham Rd, SW9

Bristol

Stop the witch hunt, Defend Cowley workers
Speakers: Ron Thomas, Steph Grant
Monday 12 September, 7.30pm, Sheperds Hall, Old Market, Bristol 2

Sheffield

Wednesday 14 September
Ask Socialist Action sellers for details

Huddersfield

Thursday 15 September 8pm
Speakers include: Cowley 13 speaker, Terry Swinbank (AUEW convenor Holset Engineering), Alan Brooke (vice chair Colne Valley CLP)
Friendly and Trades Club, Northumberland St, (opposite railway station)

'Split the block vote' says Heffer



Photo: JOHN STURROCK

Angry AUEW delegates attack former secretary Hugh Scanlon for undemocratic and manipulative use of block vote

ERIC HEFFER, MP has called for widespread democratic reforms in Labour Party voting methods, and in particular in the 'block vote'. He says this should be divided between majority and minority views in the union.

His proposals, widely reported in the media, appear in *New Left Review*, where Heffer also argues for the 'one person, one vote' method of selecting the leader and deputy leader. He insists, however, that votes are cast at union and Labour Party meetings and not by post, and that the votes of trade union members paying the political levy should be counted equally with those of individual party members.

participatory democracy on the shopfloor and in union branches.

Worse still, the Tories are using the very weaknesses of the unions which the left failed to attack, to try and cut the links between unions and Party altogether.

They can appeal to trade union members who rightly feel they have no say at all in the way their union bosses cast millions of votes at Labour Party conference, with a simple proposal: why have anything to do with the Labour Party at all?

The Labour right have played into the Tories' hands. When Roy Hattersley calls for 'one person, one vote', what he really means is that Labour Parties should use the same methods that Tebbit advocates. A postal vote in which individual party members vote without hearing the arguments or being able to discuss the issues at meetings of the labour movement is undemocratic.

Machinery

Because the left has not called for greater union democracy, but has tried instead to 'use the machinery' of the block vote by intensive lobbying of trade union leaders, they have been unable to reply to Hattersley. All they have done is defend an undemocratic *status quo*.

Tebbit's and Hattersley's proposals have the same effect. They will dissolve the connection between the unions and the Party. Tebbit does this by attacking the political levy. Hattersley does it by

severing the connection between the unions and Party at local level. And they strengthen the leadership at the expense of the membership by allowing the critical arguments to be fought out in the media instead of through meetings where all the arguments can be heard.

Meetings

Eric Heffer wants to strengthen the union-Party connection which has always been its greatest advantage.

If the leadership was elected by a ballot at union and Labour Party branch meetings, it would encourage participation in these meetings. It would politicise the unions and force the contenders for leadership elections to put their case openly to trade union members through existing labour movement structures.

It would allow the left to expose the right wing's call for 'one person, one vote' as a fake which would exclude union participation. The left could then lead the campaign for more union participation.

Just as good is the suggestion for a division of the block vote, according to minority and majority views in the unions. If delegations are to be elected according to majority and minority positions, how is the union to determine the strength of these positions among its members?

Membership

Only if the two sides of the case are openly put to the membership and voted on at a conference or by branch ballots. Open democratic discussion has been avoided by most union leaderships — to the extent, for example, where they stopped *New Socialist*

even staging a debate between the leadership contenders at the TUC.

But only if there is open discussion in the unions, and if minorities can be properly represented at all levels of decision making, is it possible for the Labour Party to take representative decisions and hold democratic elections thus ensuring trade union members feel they have a real stake in a future Labour government.

However there are weaknesses in Eric Heffer's arguments. By sup-

porting Kitson's call for a greater share for constituencies at Labour Party conference, he contradicts his other arguments. If he is arguing that trade unionists paying the political levy should have their votes counted equally with individual Party members at constituency level — a principle socialists should support — then this should not be contradicted at national level.

Moreover, if the block vote was democratised by being divided between majority and minority posi-

tions, the main abuse of the block vote would be removed. Trade union leaders would no longer be able to sledgehammer conference into doing what they wanted without reference to their members.

The most important

thing nevertheless is that Eric Heffer's proposals point the way forward for the left inside the Labour Party and the trade unions by setting out proposals that can lead to greater democracy — and that can only be to the benefit of the labour movement.

A special leaflet, 'One member One Vote — Realities Behind the Slogan', is available from the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, 10 Park Drive, London NW11 7SH (Telephone: 01-458 1501).

Stop witch hunt—vote Heffer

THIS MONTH most Constituency Labour Parties will mandate delegates for the leadership election.

Unfortunately the union barons will take the real decisions. Even so the press and right wing are just waking up to the prospect of a Kinnoch-Meacher victory. And they don't like it.

If Hattersley loses both contests it would be a smack in the nose for last year's right wing NEC and for the union leaders who put them in office. It would show that the party rank and file don't want witch hunts or policy retreats.

But strenuous work for Meacher and for Heffer in the first round is vital. The union leaders will not fall into line because of astute lobbying or 'moderate' pronouncements.

They will back Meacher, not because they



Eric Heffer wants to democratise block vote

think he can be a 'tame' partner in a united leadership, but if they are convinced that their members will give them the same treatment as Sid Weighell and John Golding if they

saddle the party with Roy Hattersley.

And this makes a big vote for Heffer even more important. No leadership team, no matter how 'left', can shelter the party from the withering blasts now coming from Tebbit and the ruling class who have no intention of letting the Labour Party keep its present relationship with the unions.

The amount of pressure being brought to bear on the Labour Party by the Tories and their press is shown by the sad fact of Meacher's climb-down over the reinstatement of the *Militant* editorial board. And his floating the idea of having a referendum on the nuclear disarmament issue which means surrendering Labour's unilateralist policies to the mercies of the media.

The Labour Party can only survive the Tebbit-inspired onslaught if it has

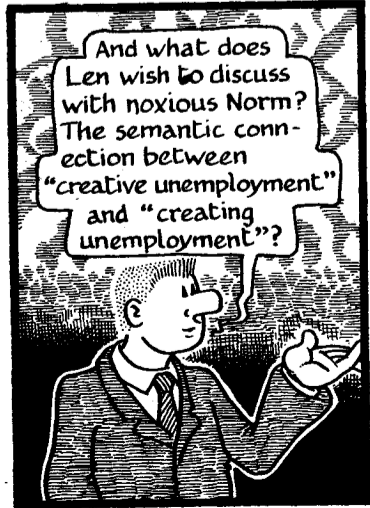
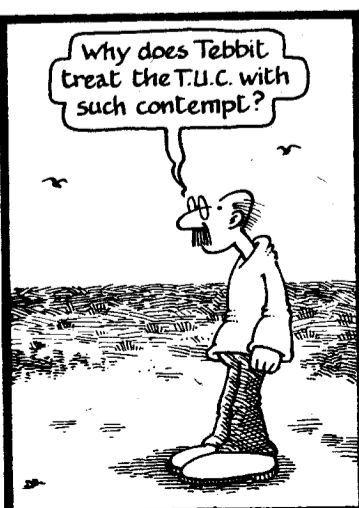
a strong left wing pledged to maintain and strengthen its links with both the trade unions and the popular mass movements. Such policies are anathema to most of the union leaders. They want nothing more than to get round a table with the Tory government and behave 'responsibly'.

The block vote will only be brought to order if the union bosses see living proof that the rank and file party members won't put up with witch hunts and welsching on conference policies.

This is why a vote is needed for Eric Heffer. The more votes he gets as candidate of the left the better the chance of stopping the witch hunt and the better the chance to rebuild a combative Labour left. Both are essential preconditions for stopping Tebbit and Thatcher in their tracks.

A PIECE OF THE ACTION

BY # 23 9/83 CORMAC



End British complicity in Central America

THIS MONTH the Foreign Office received a letter from Geoffrey Drain, the general secretary of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

He expressed 'the deep concern' of his union 'over the massive and increasing US military involvement in El Salvador and in the entire Central America region' and asked that the British government 'refrain from lending any support'.

prepared to consider are conditioned on the liberation forces of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front laying down arms and the Revolutionary Democratic Front participating in rigged elections, which open their supporters to certain repression and death.

The FDR-FMLN have rejected these US manoeuvres and declared their intention to boycott the elections and continue the war as long as the United States are involved in El Salvador.

By Celia Pugh

This is just one of the many union protests to be sent to the United States Embassy and Foreign Office since the 14 May labour movement conference on El Salvador issued a declaration urging the British Government 'to do all in its power to promote a negotiated settlement to the conflict'.

Last week US special envoy in Central America, Richard Stone rejected the demands of the popular forces in El Salvador for negotiations for fundamental change in the repressive political set up in the country. The only negotiations the US are

The British government has already pledged itself to promote these sham US backed elections by sending observers.

The *No Intervention in Central America* campaign — NICA — last week decided to continue its campaign against US intervention and British complicity following the 11 September national demonstration.

Its petition campaign will be extended until 24 October, to allow a major drive for support at the Labour Party conference



and the national CND demonstration on 22 October.

Opponents of Reagan and Thatcher's aggression in Central America are encouraged by NICA to plan signature collecting events in factories, offices, schools and local communities.

Other events are in the pipeline, including a tour of trade unionists from El

Salvador organised for December by the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign.

From 27 November to 3 December local solidarity campaigns throughout the country will stage a week of activities under the banner 'Central America — nobody's backyard'.

If you are interested in getting support for these

events from your union, Labour Party, LPYS or CND — or want to get involved in the campaign yourself contact:

- NICA 20-21 Compton Terrace, London N1.
- El Salvador Solidarity Campaign 29 Islington Park St. London N1.
- Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign 20 Compton Terrace, London N1.



NICARAGUA:

'Doing nothing will allow the US to destroy the hopes of the people'

JEREMY CORBYN, MP for Islington North in London has just returned from Nicaragua with a delegation from the Scottish TUC, Scottish Labour Party and Scottish churches.

While he was in the country he sent regular reports. We publish extracts from his observations on the fourth anniversary of the Sandinista victory.

IN JUNE 1979 the people of Nicaragua achieved what many had considered to be the impossible dream — over forty years of US backed dictatorship was brought to an end by the Sandinista victory.

Since then the efforts at destabilisation have been enormous — culminating in the latest 'show of force' by the US with 6000 ground troops committed to 'Pino Grande' military manoeuvres in neighbouring Honduras and the stationing of the US Fleet on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of this small country.

Effective trade is blocked by a private enterprise refusal to trade with the Revolutionary Government and the shortages pile up and the tension grows.

American financed and backed 'contra' forces are active on both

the Costa Rican and Honduran frontiers. The demands of defence of the revolution obviously take priority in the allocation of resources by the government, but the achievements are impressive in every field of health and education and in popular involvement.

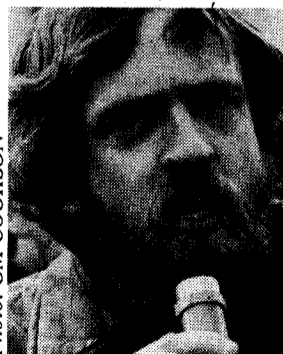
Consult

Since the 1979 triumph, popular involvement in the revolution has continuously grown. The Junta lead the government but consult and work with the Council of State on all matters.

This has 51 members, drawn from popular organisations — trade unions, womens organisations, churches and the private sector. Before their delegates are able to vote or express an opinion, they



Militia training — the Nicaraguan people prepare their defence



Jeremy Corbyn must have been through a debate within their own body.

The revolutionary changes in many aspects of society are enormous. In the Somozaist past, health care was a limited luxury and public health care considered to be of scant importance beside the need to feed the coffers of the Somoza family.

Now each 'Barrio' has a series of local committees who deal with the collective needs of defence, public health, education and housing.

In one very poor 'Barrio' we were able to visit, 472 families had divided themselves into 25 committees and are working together to transform ten acres of former Somoza land into a decent place to live.

Their current problem is getting running water put to each house, and to ensure that the school has sufficient chairs for the children to sit on. All problems that did not exist in 1979 when the Somoza forces were keeping millions in abject poverty and fighting to preserve their power and wealth.

Care

In the field of health care the revolutionary changes are the most obvious. Despite all the shortages the vaccination campaigns have gone ahead, the death rate is falling, life expectancy is rising — in 1979 it was estimated at 55 — and for most people

they can attend a health centre and see a doctor, an event undreamed of four years ago.

The contrasts of attitude in Nicaragua with Britain are enormous. Nicaragua, a very poor country, under threat from all sides, is actually creating employment, undertaking major rail and heat and power projects, building houses, schools and improving health care.

In short, planning national spending for need not private profit. In Britain, incalculably wealthy by Central American standards, our government claims not to be able to afford to build houses, health centres or even maintain the existing number of hospitals.

The over-riding impression is one of determination. Every public building is festooned with posters proclaiming the fourth anniversary of the Sandinista victory — 'Todas los armas al

No More Chiles US out of Central America

Events:

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER: 12-2am. Final session of the vigil outside US Embassy, Grosvenor Square London SW1.

A delegation of MPs will try to meet a representative of the US Embassy at this time and supporters are encouraged to join a mass vigil.

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER: Festival for Chile, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

10.30am-11.30pm. Imperial College Students' Union, Prince Consort Road, London SW7. Films, bands, music, stalls and much more.

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: National demonstration.

Assemble 1pm Clerkenwell Green London EC1. Join the Socialist Action banner at 12.30.

Photo: CARLOS AUGUSTO GUARITA (Photo)

pueblo' — as the way to defend the gains made.

This spirit is proclaimed on every street and every workplace where press cuttings and information about the military situation are posted. In the street, in taxis and in shops and markets people are delighted to talk about the gains and the problems.

Freedoms

People continually ask why they are now being lectured by the United States about the need for free elections when the Somoza dictatorship spent nearly fifty years denying the people basic freedoms and certainly never allowed a free choice of government.

The obsession of the US administration with military and economic encirclement of the country has achieved an effect of uniting most of the population in determination to keep, despite all the shortages and tribulations, undeniable gains and a

government that is actually working for them.

The US administration is clearly determined to crush the Nicaraguan revolution. Thus far the British government has given slavish support to the US, the only European government so to do.

The declaration that a country that is honouring all its debts is not really credit worthy indicates participation in an economic blockade.

Britain has 1500 troops stationed in Belize, which borders Honduras and Guatemala, and although there have been strenuous denials of British aims in the region the government recently feted ex-President Duarte of El Salvador.

One of the Prime Minister's advisors is on a fact finding mission to Honduras.

Help is needed. So too is an awareness that doing nothing will allow the US to try and destroy the hopes of the people of a country that have already rid themselves of the dictatorship.



11 SEPTEMBER 1973

The Moneda Palace bombed by the air force on the day of the coup

NEXT Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of the military coup in Chile. The coup sent shock waves through the workers movement around the world — the hopes of Allende's 'peaceful, constitutional road' were shattered. Here, concluding our series on the Popular Unity government, Easteban, a member of the Partido Socialista Revolucionaria, the Chilean section of the Fourth International, discusses the day of the coup itself.

At six o'clock in the morning Salvador Allende was awakened with a telephone report that troops were advancing on the Moneda, the presidential palace. He rushed there quickly accompanied by his personal guard of twenty, armed with automatic rifles, submachine guns and a bazooka. Once there they organised their defensive positions.

At 9am the president addressed the country. By that time the army had captured 27 of Santiago's 29 radio stations. But through the remaining two, Allende was able to broadcast his final message. He called on the workers to go to the

factories, occupy them and wait for further instructions.

The first part of his speech seemed to be calling on the workers to prepare for combat. But the second part was an unmistakable admission of defeat, a farewell to the Chilean workers.

He said: 'People of my country, I want to thank you for the loyalty which you have always shown, the trust that you have placed in a man who was only the interpreter of the great desire for justice, who gave his word to respect the Constitution and the law. I will always be beside you, or at least my memory will be. I have faith in Chile and her destiny. Other men will overcome this grey and bitter moment. May you continue to know, much sooner than later, the great avenues through which free men will pass to build a better society. Long Live Chile!'

From 8am the army had been broadcasting a communique explaining the reasons for their action, and warning that resistance would be punished with death.

Thousands of workers rushed to their workplaces to occupy the posts in which they expected the final battle with the class enemy. After all, Popular Unity had been threatened many times during its three years in government, and the workers had always been promised guns if the need occurred. This morning looked like the battle they had been expecting.

The workers blockaded the factories and tried to fortify the shanty towns around Santiago. Popular Unity people on the ground told the workers to wait for instructions. The workers demanded guns instead, and were promised they would be distributed. Many thousands of workers were slaughtered



Salvador Allende with army generals

in their factories still waiting for the guns which never came.

By 10am the army had given an ultimatum to Allende at the Moneda palace to surrender and to hand over his post to the combined force of army, navy, airforce and militia which was carrying out the coup. They warned that if he refused the Moneda would be attacked at 11am.

Just before noon the air attack began. Two Hawker Hunter jets streaked across the Santiago skyline, making sortie after sortie against the palace. As the planes' rockets exploded

the smoke and fire at the Moneda could be seen miles away. The 42 people inside the palace continued to resist against the hundreds of troops, tanks and aircraft attacking. At 2pm the troops broke in and murdered Allende.

Still the Popular Unity parties had not issued any instructions to the workers in the factories. They failed to distribute guns, or even tell the workers to resist with whatever they could get hold of. The leaders of the Popular Unity parties simply disappeared as if swallowed up by the earth. To this day they have not explained their desertion

at such a crucial moment.

It is true that a few individuals from the Socialist Party and Communist Party leaderships joined the workers in the factories, but that does not alter the stigma of the terrible betrayal of these leaderships as a whole — they left the workers to their own devices and failed to fire a shot.

The paralysis of the reformist leaders of Popular Unity was a function of the political line which they had followed for three years before the coup. After three years of manoeuvring at a governmental level, it was impossible to make a turn-around on the day of the coup itself.

Warned

Many of the most advanced workers had resented the inclusion of military figures in Allende's cabinet in October 1972 and later in August 1973. They warned the president that repeated 'dialogues' with the Christian Democrats were leading into a blind alley and they demanded that a firm hand be used against the reactionaries. In the events leading to the first attempted coup in June 1973 (the 'Tancazo') they demanded the closing of the Parliament, the election of a Popular Assembly and the arming of the people.

Sailors in Talcahuano had warned Popular Unity as early as August 1973 of the organisation of a coup by reactionary officers. But the response of the Allende government was to go from capitulation to capitulation.

While on the one hand they said they expected the reactionaries to organise against them, right up to the last moment they tried to engage Chris-

Imperialism's global offensive

THE United States is today engaged in its most extensive world-wide military operations since the Vietnam war. While the American fleet menaces Nicaragua, thousands of US troops are engaged in 'manoeuvres' in Honduras.

Simultaneously thousands of US troops are taking part in the second 'Operation Brightstar' in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. US troops are deployed in El Salvador and Lebanon, and a US 'training' team is helping French troops in Chad.

The military build-up in the third world goes hand in hand with the military escalation against the Soviet Union — the MX missiles, cruise and Pershing, the Stealth Bomber and the rest. In this global offensive the other imperialist powers, and in particular the Thatcher government, have shown themselves only too willing allies.

By Paul Lawson

The return of the United States to world-wide military operations is to some observers inexplicable, or perhaps a quirk of Reagan's personality. But behind the United States' world wide offensive there is a profound and deadly logic. In order to unravel it, we have to look at the situation which the United States faced before and after the Vietnam war.

United States imperialism was taken off guard by the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959. As the Castro leadership team rapidly moved in a socialist direction during 1960-61, the American leaders became convinced that 'world communism' was about to make a series of advances through guerrilla struggles in the third world.

Response

Their response was to unleash a massive offensive against the colonial revolution. This included US involvement in the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah's government in Ghana in 1963, the CIA's operation against the Tshombe government in the Congo and US connivance in the bloody counter-revolutionary coup in Indonesia in 1965. It involved the despatch of 40,000 US marines to the Dominican Republic in 1965 to overthrow a rather mild socialist government.

But most of all it included the decision to commit all the US's might to destroying the Vietnamese revolution. This decision was effectively taken by President Kennedy in 1961. It was he, not Lyndon Johnson, who took the decision to commit the Green Berets special forces and begin the huge build up of US troops. By 1964 there were 500,000 US troops in Vietnam.

The war in Vietnam rapidly became a crucial test of strength between world imperialism and the colonial revolution. The huge



American aircraft carriers patrol off Nicaragua and the Lebanon

commitment of American firepower, including the bombing of North Vietnam and the secret bombing of Cambodia, was not because the United States' leaders had any illusions that Vietnam possessed important resources or was of great strategic significance. Rather, the outcome of the struggle had an immense political significance.

In effect, the United States was attempting to demonstrate that revolutionary movements which challenged its interests would feel the full weight of its awesome and apparently unbeatable military might.

The determination of the United States to see the Vietnamese struggle through was destroyed by a combination of military reverses and the struggle of the US anti-war movement. In particular, the 1968 Tet offensive by the Vietnamese National Liberation Front exploded the myth that the United States was winning the war. The Vietnamese revolutionary forces took the struggle right into the working class areas of the capital Saigon and temporarily captured the northern provincial capital of Hue.

Clear

By the early 1970s it became clear that the Vietnam expedition was lost. President Nixon gradually attempted to disengage from Vietnam through the process of 'Vietnamisation' — building up the South Vietnamese puppet army and withdrawing US troops. Nonetheless, when the South Vietnamese army collapsed

in the spring of 1975, and when the North Vietnamese army occupied Saigon on May Day of that year, the shock to the United States' rulers was profound.

A new 'isolationist' mood among leading American politicians set in — the 'post-Vietnam syndrome' as US security advisor Brzezinski described it. This mood was widespread among the US population at large. No one was prepared to countenance further overseas adventures.

In 1976 Jimmy Carter was elected president. His national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, a pathological anti-communist, set out to reverse this state of affairs. During the late 1970s the US leaders became convinced that new and sustained attacks on its interests were under way in the third world.

In the first place, the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, and the consequent doubling of oil prices, had been a sharp blow to imperialism's interests in the Middle East. Now, a succession of events unfolded which developed a siege mentality among US leaders.

In 1976 Cuban troops were flown to Angola to prevent the destruction of the MPLA government by South Africa. Without doubt, this action was coordinated with the Soviet Union. Soviet backing for the revolution in Ethiopia generated fears of growing Soviet influence in the Horn of Africa.

Hard on the heels of events in Africa, the 1978-9 revolution against the Shah of Iran struck a mammoth blow to US interests in Western Asia and the Middle East. This blow was compounded

by the victory of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua in 1979.

The growing reversal of isolationism which occurred under Carter involved two major decisions for US global strategy. The first was the creation of the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), a massive counter-revolutionary strike force designed to put hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the field within weeks. The second was to attempt to counter threats to the United States in the third world by intensifying the military pressure against the Soviet Union.

Direct

For the United States, it is irrelevant whether or not the Soviet Union is the direct inspiration behind the new revolutions.

What matters is that in any case the Soviet Union utilises anti-imperialist breakthroughs to strengthen its own global strategic position, and moreover is prepared for its own reasons to give financial and military aid to nationalist or revolutionary movements coming into collision with imperialism. The United States' counter-revolutionary thrust is aimed at pushing back both the nationalist and revolutionary enemies of imperialism and any potential backers.

In order to deal with the colonial revolutionaries, it is necessary for the US to develop a nuclear superiority to create maximum military, political and diplomatic flexibility. Only from an overall position of strength can the United States protect its world-wide interests.

The conflict between the third world and imperialism is immeasurably deepened by the world economic recession, which has hit the semi-colonial countries particularly hard. High interest rates in the West have dried up loan funds for the third world. Huge foreign debts have piled up in all the third world countries. Austerity and misery are the result. Further mass outbursts against the result of this global debt bondage will be an inevitable result.

Threat

The most direct and ominous threat to US imperialism has come however through the revolution in Central America. The Central American dictatorships, derisively called 'banana republics', are among the most rotten of the regimes backed by imperialism. Their ruling classes are uniquely vulnerable to a sustained and organised attack. But they also have a vital strategic role for US imperialism.

In the first place the area's sea lanes, and in particular the Panama Canal, are crucial to US military communications. Of even more importance is the potential for a socialist-dominated Central America to spark rebellion in Mexico, and indeed throughout Latin America. It is an horrendous prospect for a capitalist United States.

The victory of the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979, backed up by the overthrow of the Gairy regime in Grenada, proved a turning point in the situation in the region. The armed struggle in both El Salvador and Guatemala developed apace, putting on the agenda a regional revolutionary war. There was never any question of imperialism winning such a conflict without more or less direct intervention.

In particular the Reagan regime has understood that if the Sandinistas retain state power, capitalist rule in El Salvador and Honduras will never be safe.

If the Central American revolution remains the most immediate danger for imperialism, politically a number of other enemies remain to be dealt with. In the first place, the Western European peace movement remains a stumbling block to pushing through the militarisation plans.

Danger

The anti-imperialist movements in Africa, the war in Chad and an ongoing struggle in the whole of Southern Africa remain a constant danger. And the refusal of the Palestinian and Lebanese masses to accept defeat remains a constant sore.

So there is no early end in sight for the United States' world-wide adventures. The two thirds of the world exploited by imperialism can be offered no economic sops in a period of capitalist crisis; the upsurge of nationalist and revolutionary movements is relentless. In the absence of a credible carrot only the stick will do. War in the third world is the order of the day.

IRELAND UNFREE

Only one episode

AS KEN Livingstone knows, and will explain to anyone willing to listen, anti-semitic pogroms and oppression did not start and end with Hitler, any more than the Irish question started in 1969. But his main point remains valid.

800 years of British occupation has meant Ireland is the only country in Europe whose population has fallen since the days of Napoleon. This can only be explained by enforced emigration, massacres and starvation. The blight killed the potato crop, but the British government was responsible for one and a half million deaths through starvation and one and a half million people were driven out of their homes and country.

The *Sunday Times* says that Britain may have acted slightly 'callously', treating Ireland as 'an outpost to be secured rather than a people to be reconciled'. But they say this ended in 1969, and since then their policy has been one of altruism.

Britain has always treated Ireland as an outpost to be secured. The only reconciliation they have ever wanted was that of security. This is the real history of Ireland — 800 years of pitiless repression and slaughter, met by the resistance of an oppressed people. The last 14 years is but one episode.

As the RUC combs the jails of the North with offers of fabulous riches to bribe new informers, the armies shoot-to-kill policy continues to claim nationalist lives. The refusal of the authorities to hold an enquiry or take any action against the perpetrators of these murders does not square too well with the spirit of 'altruism' and 'reconciliation' attributed to the government.

Tragedy

HARD LINE loyalist groups will no doubt be grieving at one death in particular from the South Korean flight over Soviet air space last week. Congressman Laurence McDonald was perhaps their best friend in the US Congress.

McDonald, head of the virulently anti-communist group the John Birch society, is on record several times attacking the 'Soviet inspired IRA'. A speech McDonald made for the Congressional record in 1981 was later quoted extensively in *Combat*, the Ulster Volunteer Force magazine.

He referred to 'the murder of thousands of peace loving protestants by the IRA' and emphasised his belief that 'the communist inspired IRA was part of a Soviet and Gaddafi-led plot aimed at the violent destabilisation of the North.'

McDonald was also one of the Southern political figures responsible for getting the Rev Ian Paisley invited to the inauguration of President Reagan in 1980. He has helped gain visas for many Loyalist figures visiting the United States.

'It is a terrible tragedy that such a fine Christian gentleman should have been lost in this way' commented a grief stricken Mr Paisley.

Turkey: a nation behind bars

THE WESTERN press has maintained a discreet silence about Turkey for the past three years. On 12 September 1980, Turkey's armed forces (the second largest in NATO with 500,000 members) seized power. Since the coup repression has reached levels rarely seen in countries which are not actually fascist dictatorships: 48 youths hanged, tens of thousands of political prisoners, numerous deaths in custody, widespread torture — and all in a NATO member and associate of the EEC.

Socialist Action asked CHRIS SMITH, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury who was recently in Turkey what his impressions were.

My overwhelming impression is that the normal standards of democracy and human rights are being flouted in Turkey:

Alex Lyon) insisted that we neither reveal their identities nor repeat their conversations. They were terrified to talk to us.

the coup the Generals made gestures of even-handedness in the direction of Western Europe by arresting both right and left wingers, more recently made confident by American support the junta has dropped any such pretence. Trials were opened against university lecturers as a new law overturning the autonomy of educational institutions was passed, and also against the Turkish Peace Association whose 'crime' was to have advocated peace. An estimated fifty lawyers are standing trial as a result of their defence

tion. In the face of farcical charges and legal proceedings, the dignity they showed made us feel very humble.

But the only continuous resistance to the regime has come from within the prisons. The hunger strike which started in early July in four Istanbul prisons involved 2500 political prisoners! A remarkable thing.

Yet barely mentioned in the press over here.

Well no. But it certainly wasn't mentioned in the Turkish press either.

In fact, despite the size of the protest, the first notice of its existence in Turkey was a BBC World Service broadcast from London nearly one month after the strike had begun. That tells you something about the press censorship in Turkey.

Unfortunately we were able to confirm that the strike was crushed in its fifth week. It is reported that two prisoners died. Over the last few weeks conditions in Metris prison on Istanbul where the strike originated have deteriorated considerably.

In June this year the junta despatched the army into Iraq to pursue and destroy Kurdish nationalist fighters in their mountain heartland. This signals a new role for the Turkish military: the Pentagon's replacement for the Shah as regional gendarme (US military 'aid' to Turkey is \$820 million this year, up by \$120 million); and also a new situation for the Kurds.

The Kurds, whose existence is officially denied, make up one fifth of Turkey's population. Were you able to find out what was going on in the east of the country?

No. Reports that there are continuing mass hunger strikes in the prisons of Diyarbakir (capital of Turkey-Kurdistan) and Erzerum were unconfirmed. It's virtually impossible to get reliable information from the east of the country.

What do you think of the junta's project for a 'return to democracy'?

It's a total facade. The elections which are going to be held on 6 November will have only three parties contesting them — all three effectively in the pocket of the military junta. Any party of the centre or the left has been vetoed. Even parties of the right have been vetoed because they showed a tiny spark of independence.

Before the coup. The slogan reads 'Fascist governor, the towns of Unye, Aybasti, Ordu and Golkoy will call you to account.'

What about the British role in events in Turkey?

The official position is that the British government publicly supports the junta while privately expressing doubts about its human rights record!

In fact, the reality is even worse. We found when we got to Ankara that the British embassy officials were much more craven in their support for the regime than even the foreign office was in London before we left. They justified virtually everything the regime was doing. They might as well have been members of it themselves!

Indeed Alex Lyon, in conversation with one of the higher embassy officials, got the impression that not only did this person wholeheartedly support the junta, but he thought it provided a pretty good model for the government in this country as well.

What will you be doing with the information you have gathered?

Apart from making the usual official reports and raising the matter in parliament we shall be raising our voices wherever we can in solidarity with the people of Turkey.

We shall be pushing for an all-party delegation to go to Turkey as we feel that their findings will help change government policy.

I have been horrified and angry by what I saw, I shall convey those feelings to the labour and trade union movement. We intend to stimulate as much interest on Turkey as there is on Poland.



The Kurds — officially they don't exist

prison conditions, the way in which trials are being conducted, the kind of charges brought against people, the torture that's going on, press censorship, the removal of political parties from being able to contest the election.

Across the whole spectrum of human activity, human rights are being denied. I should mention that every person who talked to us (I went with Claire Short MP and former Labour Minister

What about the mass trials?

Mass show trials of Kurds, socialists, trade unionists across the breadth of Turkey are the junta's chosen vehicle for crushing the opposition. The most common charge is from Articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code (directly borrowed from Mussolini's) which prohibit "advocating the domination of a social class over other social classes".

In the early days of the

in courts!

Did you find evidence of resistance to this terror. I'm thinking particularly of the hunger strikes reported in the Istanbul prisons?

Of course there is resistance. For example, we were struck enormously with the tremendous dignity shown by the defendants in the trials we visited of the leaders of Turkey's trade union movement and the Turkish Peace Associa-

TURKEY: A nation behind bars

Saturday 10th
September
2.30pm
Stoke Newington
Town Hall,
London N16

Speakers include:

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Anthony Kendall (leader of Hackney Council) Gultekin Bekdemir (General Secretary, Underground Miners Union), Cahit Baylav (Executive Committee, Bank workers union), Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign

Organised by the Turkey Solidarity Campaign to coincide with the third anniversary of the coup in Turkey



Gultekin Bekdemir

Photo: COLIN HEADWORTH

TURKEY
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Available from TSC, BM
Box 5965, London WCIN
3XX. Price 46p.

Advertisement

The Socialist Society Summer School

September 17-18 10.30-5

County Hall, London SE1

Theme: **No turning back**

Saturday:
J Palmer, J Corbyn, R Murray, M Ward on **socialist strategy for the defence of local democracy**; B Lowe on **Nato; in or out?** A Arblaster on **right wing ideology**; M Cooley, *H Beynon on **socialist analysis of new technology**; J Pearce, J Dunkerly on **Central America**; *D Widgey, CP speaker on **socialist alternatives to the Labour Party**; N Sharman, R Cox on **relevance of workers' co-operatives**; M Rustin on **Ireland: why has the left failed? feminism and the women's movement**; J Couzens on **women and extra-parliamentary democracy**; N Blake, R Profit, A Wilson on **immigration and the repression state**; J Vernon on **green politics for Britain?**

Sunday:
T Benn, A Barnett, *S Rowbotham; C Benn on **YTS-training or exploitation?** J Palmer, A Lomas MP on **the Common Market**; G Hodgson, T Ali on **what next for the Labour left?** L De Groot, D Sullivan, I Beavis on **how we defend services**; C Harwood on **women's peace movement**; M Rustin on **politics of PR**
(*speakers not yet confirmed)

£6 waged/members; £3 unwaged; £8 waged/nonmembers
Creche (must be booked)

BOOKING DETAILS:
Socialist Society, 9 Poland Street, London W1 (01-734 8501)

Advertisement

International

FACING 1984

A weekend of socialist debate and discussion on political and economic aspects of the British crisis.

Speakers include:

Stuart Holland MP; Ernest Mandel; Unmesh Desai; Joy Hurcombe; Ken Livingstone; Andrew Gamble; John Harrison; Valerie Coultas; Alan Freeman; John Ross.

October 29/30 at Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth St, Off Grays Inn Rd, London WC1.

Registration costs £5 for the weekend (but only £4 if you book in advance), 2.50 for one day. Send cheque payable to International to: PO Box 50, London N1.

DIARY

(These listings are free for all major labour movement and campaign activities. Semi-display advertisements cost 5p per word and must be paid in advance. Send to: Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday, one week prior to publication).

● **No Intervention in Central America (NICA)** — a broad based coalition of solidarity groups, human rights orgs, aid agencies and political parties. NICA have organised a daily vigil outside the US Embassy, Grosvenor Sq, 9-7.30. Mass picket, 12-2 pm, Fri 9 Sept.

● **Caribbean evening** North London Revolution fundraising social with food, drink & music. Sat 10 Sept, 8pm, 25 Bourgoyne Road, N4. £1.75/£1 unwaged.

● **No more Chiles — Hands off Central America** National demonstration 11 Sept assembles 12.30pm Clerkenwell Grn, London EC1.

● **Vigil at the Chilean Embassy** to mark ten years of repression, with music and street theatre. Sun 11 Sept, 10-11.30am, 12 Devonshire St, London W1.

● **London Labour Campaign for Gay Rights** next monthly meeting 11 Sept, 6pm, Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1. For details contact Mike Haran 659 2938 or Chris Beer 785 9515. National LCGR can be contacted via Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Nottingham NG7 2DS.

● **Grenada — a peaceful revolution under threat.** How can you help? Public meeting Wed 14 Sept, 7.30pm, Moonshine Theatre, Victor Rd, London NW10. Speakers: Ben Bousquet (Cllr) & from Grenada support group and Britain Grenada Friendship Society. Organised by NW London Grenada Support Group, c/o 2 Hardie Close, NW10.

● **Stop US intervention in Central America** — new badge produced by CARILA, 30p each. Available on 11 Sept demo (see above) or from CARILA 298 Islington Park St, London N1 359 2270, cash with orders.



● **Stop the witch hunt!** Public meeting Weds 14 Sept, 7.30pm, Abeng Community Centre, Gresham Rd, Brixton. Speakers: Ted Knight (Leader of Lambeth Council); Stuart Holland MP; Graham Norwood (Cllr); Dick Evans (Waterloo NUR); Unmesh Desai (Campaign Against the Police Bill) and also from Pritchards, Wandsworth; UCATT; NUT; POEU.

● **Glasgow Polish Solidarity Cttee Conference** 17/18 September. For details contact Gordon Morgan, 59 Durward Ave, Glasgow 041-649 8958



● **Leggin' it for peace** East London Youth CND March, 17/18 September from Kelvedon Hatch Civil Defence HQ to London Fields, Hackney. For details contact East London YCND, Box 5, 136, Kingsland High St, London E8.

● **Gay Young Socialists** next London meeting 18 Sept, 6pm, at Gay's the Word. Discussion on the Police Bill with speaker from Gay London Police Monitoring Group. Future meetings on 'Gays and Central America' and showing of South London GYM video 'Revenge of the teenage pervers'. Further info from Martin Goodsell, 13 Buxton Rd, N19, 263 9484.

● **Ireland and the Labour Party Conference** Labour Campaign on Ireland public meeting, 19 Sept, 7.30pm, Venture Community Centre, Warrington Road, London W10 (Ladbroke Grove tube). Speakers: Tony Benn (Kensington), Sheila Healey (Brent), Cllr Pat Smyth (Kensington), Cllr Tony Powell (Fulham) — all conference delegates.

● **Lambeth Labour Campaign for Gay Rights** open meeting on Gays & Lambeth Council 23 Sept, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall.

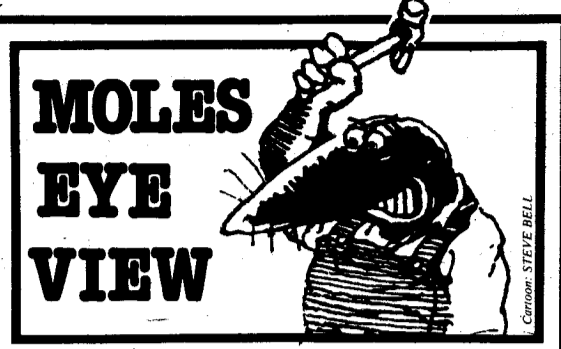
● **Swansea YCND Festival** 24 Sept, St Phillips Community Centre, 1-6pm. Stalls, videos, music, food and workshops. Admission 30p, all welcome. Further info from Gareth Harding, 2, Overland Rd, Mumbles, Swansea, tel. 68660.

● **Against Racism and Racist Attacks!** National march called by Newham 8 Defence Cttee and supported by National Campaign Against the Police Bill. Sat 24 Sept, 1pm, Plashet Park, East Ham, London E6.

● **Sinn Fein and Labour** Hornsey & Wood Green LPYS public meeting. Mon 26 Sept, 7.30pm, Stroud Green School, Woodstock Rd, London N4. Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Sarah Roelofs (LCI) and rep. from 'Veterans against the War'.

Jonathon Hammond, 1942-83
Ex-President, NUJ Labour Movement Memorial Meeting
Wednesday, 28 September, 8pm, Bishop Creighton House, Lillie Road, Fulham, London SW6

● **CND National Demonstration** London, 22 Oct. Details: 01-272 8896.



Prison reform?

PRISON REFORM is now underway for some. At Maidstone nick one prisoner has been given a blue band.

This means he gets almost complete freedom to move about the jail and is not supervised. This lucky guy also lives in a hospital ward rather than a cell, so there is no slopping out for him in the mornings.

The ward has a telly, its own shower unit and he gets unlimited association. So he will be able to watch all four episodes of the Godfather this week, unlike the other inmates.

Now this prisoner is a bit special, I have to admit that. He is no ordinary thief. In fact he is

Peter Caselton, a government employee, who did his break-ins at the London offices of SWAPO, the African National Congress, and the Pan African Congress on behalf of his paymasters the South African government.

And in the eyes of the Home Office and such like, crimes against black liberation movements are justified — especially if they are committed by white men.

So maybe what's happening at Maidstone Prison is not exactly a breakthrough in prison reform but is the British establishment doing a favour for its racist buddies in the South African government.

Michael the mole

WILL THE Labour Party have a mole as deputy leader? In this week's Sunday Times Michael Meacher says: 'I would love to spend six months on the assembly line at Cowley'.

My informants at Labour Party headquarters tell me that Roy Hattersley is dead keen

to get Michael doing just that. He is said to have offered to get Michael a reference saying he worked in the boiler room at Walworth Road and has only got one O-level.

The snag is that Roy is insistent he must take the job before the last week in September.

A dead shot?

ROLANDO GALMAN did Mrs Imelda Marcos the favour of bumping off Benigno Aquino at Manila airport, or so the story goes.

Unfortunately Senor Galman is no longer around to tell us what happened. His body, riddled with bullets, which hit the airport tarmac testifies to his permanent silence. Funnily enough there was little blood around the corpse.

Mrs Marcos claims that's because he did not bleed a lot. Others say that's because the guards shot Benigno Aquino

and arranged for a van to arrive with Galman's already dead body which was dumped when the shots were flying.

Two eye witnesses report this is what happened and say an 'Avsecom' van was used for this.

Coincidentally 'Avsecom' is the anti-highjack unit that was 'protecting' Benigno Aquino.

Moles Eye View is compiled by BOB PENNINGTON. Contributions sent to arrive by Thursday am.

Socialist Action appeal

THIS WEEK, more left-wingers have been sacked from Cowley for their political views. The drift to the right in the Labour Party led by Kinnock gets worse.

We refuse to reconsider the sanity of opposition to cruise and Trident missiles. We refuse to support talks with Tebbit designed to shackle the unions or further slash living standards.

Socialist Action supporters don't have private chats with Robin Day which sympathise with the Tories — whether it's over the sinking of the Belgrano or on economic policies.

The witch hunting attacks on socialists are going to continue and Socialist Action is going to be singled out because we are known as the labour newspaper that will not back down.

We refuse to step back one inch from our stand in support of women's rights, black people or gays. We will not allow the warmongering of Thatcher and Reagan to plough ahead unopposed.

We rely only on our readers to help us sustain our defence of socialist policies. We are desperately short of money and we need it now, more than ever before. We appeal to all socialists — help to defend socialist policies and help to defend Socialist Action! Send us your contribution today.

Socialist ACTION
Join the fight for socialism

Name
Address
Tel
Age Union/CLP (if any)

If you want more information about Socialist Action or to be put in touch with local supporters send this form to Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1.

I would like to become a Socialist Action supporter.

● Please send me my supporters bulletin
● Please put me in touch with local readers
● I enclose a standing order/donation of £

Socialist Action Bankers Order Form

Date 19

To:

(Name of your bank in capitals)

of

(Address of your bank in capitals)

Please pay to the credit of Socialist Action, Acc. No. 70372315 at Co-Op Bank, 08-90-33, 1 Islington High Street, London N1. Starting on (date of first payment) and thereafter monthly on the same date until further notice. Debit my A/C No for the amount of £

Name

Address

Signature

When completed and signed please return to:
The Business Manager, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.

Please do not send the Bankers Order direct to your bank. Thank you.

National Newham Eight March

AGAINST RACISM AND RACIST ATTACKS

Saturday 24 September

Assemble 1pm at Plashet Park, Plashet Park, East Ham E12 (East Ham tube).

Called by Newham Eight Defence Campaign, supported by National Campaign against the Police Bill.

Solidarity grows for Britains' strike

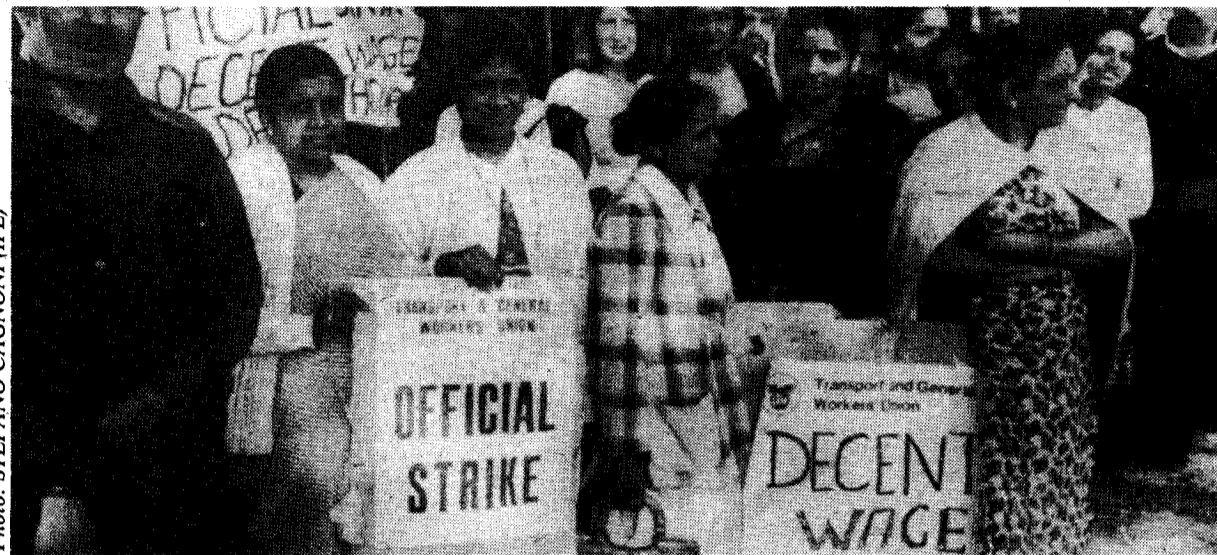


Photo: STEFANO CAGNONI (IFL)

Britains' picket stays firm

LAST WEEK strikers were arrested on the picket line at Britains' Toys in East London.

But support is flooding in from the labour movement which is inspired by this action of low paid workers for a shorter working week with no loss of income.

The majority of the strikers are of Asian origin and the Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement — a campaign set up to promote the interests of Black trade unionists — issued an appeal last week for support.

'WE THE Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement fully support the workers from Britains' Ltd, in their demand for reduction in hours and better pay and conditions.

We are asking the TGWU to step up the support for the pickets at Britains' by asking other trade unions to support the strikers.

Two hundred TGWU members have been on official strike at Britains' Ltd., (toy manufacturers) of Blackhorse Lane,

Walthamstow, London E17. The majority of the workforce are Black workers who are of Asian origin.

They have been on strike since 29 July, 1983. They are seeking a reduction in their working week.

In two sections of the factory they have to work a compulsory 50 hours a week and 46¾ hours per week.

Women

The firm's top paid male workers get £2.01½p an hour for a 50 hour week while women workers get

£1.70 an hour for a 39 hour week.

A bonus system offering an extra 42½p is also operated but it is conditional on each worker achieving a pre-set production target.

Failure to achieve 75 per cent of that target could result in the sack after three warnings.'

For further information contact Farida Mayet or Bernie Grant. BTUSM Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ.

• Donations and picket support contact: Britains' shop steward's committee, 205 Fore St, London N18.

British Telecom engineers want more action

THIS MONTH, British Rail plan to start laying cables for Project Mercury — Michael Edwardes' private alternative to the Telecom system.

In a deal worth millions, Mercury will run cables alongside railway lines in a massive figure-of-eight linking England's major cities.

It hopes to use this network to cream off profitable big business revenue, which contributes the lion's share of BT's 1982-83 profits of £365m.

By a POEU member

But if such investment by Mercury is currently underway, BT's 134,000 engineers should make it one of the most expensive white elephants in history.

Meeting in Wembley on 18 September, the Post Office Engineering Union will discuss plans to escalate industrial action against privatisation and Mercury.

For 10 weeks the POEU has been involved in action after engineers refused to connect Mercury. This action has been extended to attack Mercury's big business backers resulting in the boycott of key Barclays' Bank, Cable and Wireless and British Petroleum lines across Central London.

In a resolution to this year's TUC the POEU calls for the setting up of a

joint nationalised industry and public sector committee to coordinate a trade union anti-privatisation campaign and future industrial action.

Coordinated action involving all the industries hit by privatisation would greatly strengthen our hand in defeating the government's plans.

But even if the POEU resolution is passed, such a national alliance would not spring automatically to life. Health workers and ASLEF railworkers experienced how the TUC sacrifices struggles of working people on the altar of greater collaboration with government and the captains of industry.

Threat

British Rail management are colluding with BT to undermine the public telephone network. British Rail workers are also under direct threat from privatisation, with proposals for a slimmed down and saleable rail system.



HANDS OFF TELEPHONES!

United action can help rail and telecom workers. The BR unions have paper commitments to oppose Mercury and all privatisation in the public sector. But direct links must be made between the struggles of workers in rail and telecommunications, through reciprocal solidarity.

Much depends on the direction taken at the POEU special conference this month. The action of POEU engineers to date has been selective and limited in scope. So, it has failed to attract media at-

tention and inspire support from other unions. The action has been confined to London.

If the action is not generalised by the Broad Left dominated National Executive Council and its Industrial Action Strategy Sub-Committee then the POEU members' task is to and defeat privatisation will be denied.

This will also prevent POEU action being a spur to effective action by the proposed public sector alliance.



Greenings' workers win after 23 weeks on strike

Greenings strike victory!

ENGINEERING workers at Greenings in Warrington return to work on 5 September after a 23-week strike.

They have won the full reinstatement of more than 300 workers — including those made compulsorily redundant.'

Management efforts to smash union organisation, change established working practices and introduce forced redundancies sparked off this bitter strike.

The strikers beat back these attacks, winning facilities for a full time convenor, a shop stewards organisation and agreement for no victimisation of strikers.

Problems still remain in the plant, but the workers victory gives them the confidence and organisation to defeat the management again.

Their success gives a boost to the thousands of workers across the country who are battling against forced redundancies and assaults on their union.

Greenings shows it is possible to fight and win.

Highland Fabricators mass pickets battle on



Photo: MORNING STAR

Workers families join the action

A BITTER strike in the north of Scotland is grabbing the headlines — with 800 pickets on the line and their families lying down in the road to block scab buses.

GRAHAM BARNETSON explains the background to the dispute at the Highland Fabricators construction yard in Nigg, Easter Ross near Inver Gordon.

The dispute at Hi-Fab, which makes oil rigs for the North Sea, started on 11 August when management withdrew the cooling shelters, showers and free orange juice from welders and their mates, who were working in extremely high temperatures.

The strikers were not the only ones to be affected. The yard's 1600 workforce offering them new contracts and 4½ per cent pay rise.

From the beginning of the dispute it was obvious that management wanted to provoke a situation where the workforce would be left without the cover of management.

When the workers went on unofficial strike, management sacked all 2000. Letters were then

sent to 1600 of the workforce offering them new contracts and 4½ per cent pay rise.

From the beginning of the dispute it was obvious that management wanted to provoke a situation where the workforce would be left without the cover of management.

The strikers were not the only ones to be affected. The yard's 1600 workforce offering them new contracts and 4½ per cent pay rise.

'Now that we have

made an appraisal of the programme and assessed the size of the workforce that the yard can support, we are pleased to offer you re-employment'.

When the company held interviews at the local job centre, it claimed that 400 of the striking workers had accepted contracts.

Police

A picket has prevented scabs getting into work. On 29 August over 800 pickets stopped the bus carrying scabs from entering the gate. A few scabs did try to make it on foot, but most of the workers joined the pickets.

Only one scab actually got through, under heavy police escort. Management had expected at least 500 to work.

The next day pickets again stopped the buses when the drivers refused to cross the picket lines.

In nearby Ainess, women and children were removed by the police when they lay down in the road to stop buses getting to the yard.

Some workers at the yard are pleased with their victory over management's harassment tactics. The convenor, Rab Wilson has said that there will be a mass demonstration every day until management agree to reinstate the 2000 workers and negotiate a return to work formula.

Socialist ACTION

PAT HICKEY reports on the opening day of conference

TUC

Since the Jones/Scanlon leadership of the TGWU and AUEW in the late 60's the General Council of the TUC has been dominated by a soft left coalition.

This leadership, at least at the level of policy if not at the level of action, supported a militant line. The 1983 Conference has changed that.

In the vanguard of the right was outgoing President Mr Frank Chapple. He argued the need for 'a greater industrial consensus', for 'greater cooperation at work' and for the need to 'argue with government and build a partnership that can revitalise Britain'.

To rub home the point about the need for a partnership with the Tory government, and the defeat which had been prepared for the left he attacked Arthur Scargill for being prepared to 'travel half way round the world to sympathise with communist dictatorships. Yet seek to prevent the TUC from talking to the elected Government of Britain'.

There was much more in a similar vein, including an implicit acceptance of 4 million unemployed, and the need to make reforms which would meet Tebbit half way. He included a vigorous defence of democracy, Tory-style and attacked 'threats to destroy elected governments' as 'infantile' and a

'dangerous boomerang'. Thus did the former maverick right winger settle accounts with those who defeated the Heath Government, and took his place in the vanguard of the TUC.

Grotesque

The right wing went on to remove three unions from independent representation at Congress. These were the agricultural workers, the dyers and bleachers, both recently amalgamated with the TGWU, and the Medical Practitioners Union, a section of ASTMS. To do this, they had to overturn a General Council recommendation to keep them in. The right had a majority of 1.6 million.

In addition, automatic representation for unions over 100,000 was reaffirmed. This means that 34 of the 5 seats filled by Congress are automatically taken by the large unions and not elected.

The smaller unions will share 11 seats. The removal of the three unions from this section will strengthen the right, and ensure them a majori-

ty on the new General Council.

The full implications of the changes will become clear over the next couple of years. But one thing is already clear. The obstacles to united working class action have been increased, and the fight against Tebbit will disappear from the agenda if the right has its way.

The defeat at Blackpool will also have important implications for the Labour Party. Again Chapple leads the way. He stressed the 'mass desertions of Labour votes' and noted that 'it is extremely unlikely that Labour can win in 1988'.

Strike

The context of these remarks is ominous. Many of the white collar unions are not affiliated to the Labour Party. Kites are being flown on talks with the SDP.

It will mean the right will push for a 'reassessment' of the traditional links with the Labour Party.

And the fight will get even more explosive in the Labour Party.



The shadow now calls the tune

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

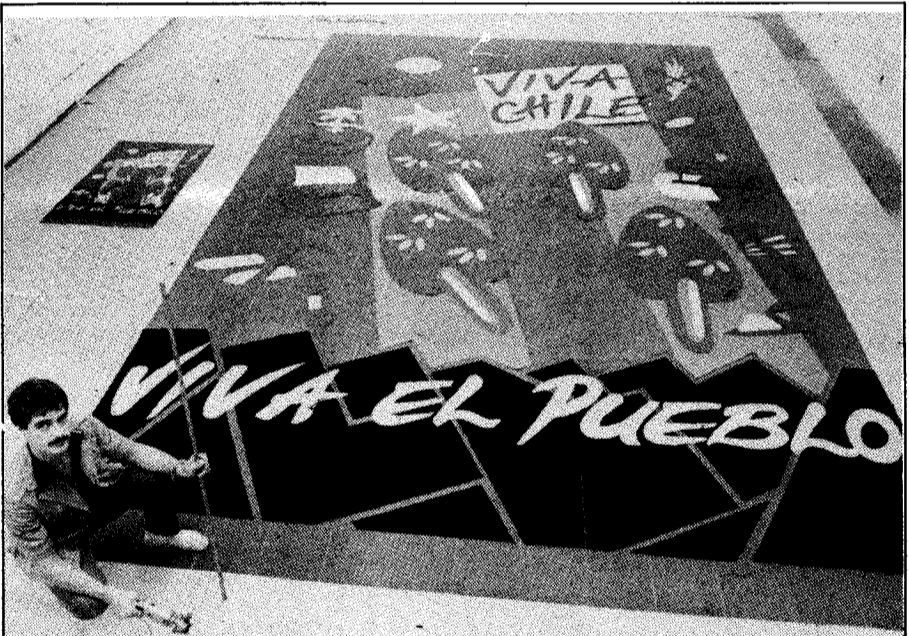


Photo: CARLOS AUGUSTO GUARITA

This banner, commissioned by the Chile Solidarity Campaign and made and designed by John Dugger will lead Sunday's demonstration.

MODERN TIMES



And what is more, I have incontrovertible proof that Arthur Scargill's hair laqueur is imported from Russia ...

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Greenham

By Jude Woodward

GREENHAM USUALLY means blockading, camping in the mud at the airbase, demonstrating and generally rushing about. But on 10 and 11 September it is also going to mean time to talk and think about what we are doing and why.

Manchester Greenham Group is providing the venue and organisation for a national Greenham conference.

After the July blockade many women involved around Greenham felt they needed a respite from continual activity to discuss what we were doing and where we were going. The conference hopes to give us that opportunity.

On the Saturday there will be a number of different workshops on questions raised in the women's peace movement, plus films and videos. Women with proposals for additional workshops will be helped to organise them. Sunday will mainly be given over to discussions on where we go from here.

The conference is open to all women involved in or supporting the movement around Greenham. We hope to see as many women as possible from all parts of the country come to share experiences and help us to sort out our ideas.

The venue will be the Town Hall in Manchester and more details can be obtained by ringing 01-251-3133, the London Greenham Office.

LABOUR POLAND EASTERN EUROPE

AGENDA:
SATURDAY
 17th SEPTEMBER
 1.30-3.30 — Workers Democracy in Poland and Czechoslovakia.
 3.30-5.30 — Women and Eastern Europe.
 (Also arranged for Saturday Night 6pm-1am)
 Tickets: £1.50 (Unemployed £1)

SUNDAY
 18th SEPTEMBER
 10.00-12.30 — The Peace Movements in Eastern Europe.
 12.30-1.30 — Lunch
 1.30-4.00 — Solidarity Work in Britain.

INVITED SPEAKERS
 MAREK GABZECKI (Solidarnosc)
 KAREL KYJAL (Charter 77 Signatory)
 OLIVER McDONALD (Editor of Labour Focus on Eastern Europe)
 KASIA BUDD (Representative of the Women in Eastern Europe Collective)
 NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON from (E.N.O.)

ACCOMMODATION
 Saturday Night (17th) accommodation will be available. Arrangements supplied at Conference Saturday p.m.

CRECHE
 Facilities will be provided for both days.

For further information contact
 LONDON GREENHAM
 328 UPPER STREET, LONDON N1
 GLASGOW G41 TEL 041 649 8958

2 DAY CONFERENCE ON CURRENT AND RECENT EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE

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